

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. BA 530

Magi No. 0305305204

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic BEACHMONT FARM (HOUSE)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6415 Mount Vista Road ☐ not for publication
city, town Kingsville ☐ vicinity of Councilmanic District - 5
state MD congressional district 2nd
county Baltimore County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

Rev. R.D. Standiford, Personal Rep. of
name Estate of Aimee B. Foard

street & number 6415 Mount Vista Road telephone no.: 592-5521
city, town Kingsville state and zip code MD 21087

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building Will record 97
street & number 401 Bosley Avenue liber
city, town Towson folio 159
state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory
date On-going since 1965 ☐ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☐ local
depository for survey records 100 Community Place
city, town state MD 21032

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Beachmont Farm House is a prominent hilltop dwelling in a well landscaped setting with large trees in front, and old boxwoods scattered about. Facing the road there is a full-width porch. The house is two stories plus a mansard level. The east and west sides are different in layout, with a side entrance on the east, a 2½ story three-sided bay window on the west. There is a lot of bracketing on the eaves and various wooden applied decorations are used as well. The rear wing is a very small 2-story structure of considerable antiquity as revealed by its primitive fireplace. The starter house is blended into the luxurious mansard section by a coating of white stucco. The house reflects an era of almost frontier type construction combined with an elaborate Victorian showplace built by a railroad entrepreneur. There are some 20th century outbuildings in the house cluster but they are not in the same style as the mansion.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance -- Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/ government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	ca. 1823--	Builder/Architect	unknown
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check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Rev. Ronald D. Standiford, administrator of Beachmont Farm, provided the following history for the 1986 garden tour:

HISTORY OF BEACHMONT FARM

Originally part of the Susquehannock Indian hunting grounds, Beachmont land was not under colonial ownership until 1684. Captain Richard Hill of Anne Arundel County joined other sea captains and gentlemen seeking to invest in undeveloped land. Even though Capt. Hill patented 1,000 acres known as Hill's Forest, there was virtually no access to it. Settlement did not come to this area for another thirty years.

Part of "Hill's Forest" eventually became the family farm of James Gittings in the late 1700s. In 1791, records show that James Gittings was one of three men appointed by the legislature to lay out the present Harford Road. Beside the part of the main house they built, the only other building left standing from the Gittings years is the dependency for the slaves.

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of property: Beachmont Farm (House)

Section number 8 Page 2

In 1838, Jesse Garrett, a 42-year-old Quaker farmer, purchased the farm from the Gittings heirs. He, his wife and daughter, spent the rest of their lives at this farm, then known as "Chestnut Grove." When Mr. Garrett died in 1878, his estate inventory shows simple but comfortable furnishings, and a plain operation for the farm. He was also a man of respect and means, because he had financially helped and acted as surety for neighbors in times of need.

When son-in-law Thomas Armstrong purchased the farm from the Garrett heirs in 1885, things began to change. A French Victorian architectural style took his eye and the place was transformed into its present appearance. All these improvements were too much for his pocketbook. Even though he was a Treasurer of the Md. and Pa. Railroad, and owned a soap and candle manufacturing company, his debts were too great. The farm was sold for \$14,000, and the Armstrongs built a smaller, but comfortable house near the Glen Arm train station.

A series of Baltimore families owned Beachmont for the next thirty years, some using it as a summer home to escape the city heat.

In 1926 George White purchased the farm for a large scale dairy operation. He added to the already monstrous barn, and built more farm buildings. His silos were the largest on the east coast at the time of construction. When the Great Depression struck, Mr. White was forced to sell Beachmont. Beachmont was once again sold to pay off debts.

Maryland Historical Trust/
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Continuation Sheet

Name of property: Beachmont Farm (House)

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New life came to Beachmont when purchased by the W.P. Coles. Mr. Cole was a well loved congressman who did a lot for the neighborhood and state. University of Maryland named Cole Field House in his honor for all he had done for the school. Being a good democrat, President Roosevelt appointed him to a federal judgeship. So the Coles left Beachmont for New York.

When purchased in 1938 by the Foreman brothers, the farm became the home of the overseer, Mr. Crewe. German prisoners of W.W. II were brought from the Pikesville Armory to work in Beachmont's fields watched by shot gun bearing guards.

Beachmont underwent another renovation when W.H. and Aimee Burton Foard made their 1950 purchase.¹ They spent one year making exterior improvements and repairs to the house, gardens and farm buildings. In 1951, they brought their pure bred Gurnsey business to Beachmont. Foard cows were record producers in the State, and the milk supplied the patients at City Hospital.

When the Foards retired from farming in 1966, they sought to use the farm for the good of the neighborhood. After Mr. Foard's death in 1967, his wife searched for a ministry, and donated ground for Beachmont Christian Camp in 1973. In 1984, she was killed in an automobile accident when hit by a drunk driver. Her will directed that Beachmont Farm be used for a Christian purpose, which is presently under study. In the meantime, Beachmont continues as a family residence and center of much activity.

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Name of property: Beachmont Farm (House)

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The house appeared on the 1850 map by J.C. Sidney and P.J. Browne, marked as residence of J. Garrett, "Chestnut Grove." One of the visitors on the 1986 garden tour noted, "Primitive fireplace with cranes...great interior for a movie set in Victorian style."

NOTE:

1. Baltimore County Deeds, TBS 1873:582.

BEACHMNT/PZONE/LANDMARK

"History of Beachmont Farm," Ronald D. Standiford,
1986 tour leaflet, Kingsville, Md.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 50.50

Quadrangle name White Marsh

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Tax Map 54, Grid 15, Parcel P108

Bounds on s/s of Mount Vista Road and e/s of Harford Road.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county n/a	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrain

organization Office of Planning

date April 14, 1995

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue

telephone (410) 887-3495

city or town Towson

state MD 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
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